

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9, as follows:

A1
In an interactive information distribution system, a method and apparatus is provided for distributing video assets to a plurality of subscribers, and redistributing video assets stored on primary and secondary storage devices. FIG. 1 depicts a high-level block diagram of an interactive information distribution system.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20, as follows:

B2
~~Moreover, each~~ Each head-end 110 comprises a host workstation 112, a video stream server 114 and a primary storage partition 118. The primary storage partition 118 and host workstation 112 are coupled to the video stream server 114. In the exemplary embodiment, the primary storage partition 118 comprises of an array of small computer systems interface (SCSI) or fiber channel hard drives.

Rewrite the paragraphs beginning on page 16, line 3 through page 17, line 4, as follows:

B3 cont
FIGS. 4A and 4B together depict a flow diagram representing a method 400 of allocating video information based upon subscriber requests. It further demonstrates the method of distributing video information. The method 400 is used in an interactive information distribution system 100 or 200 of FIG's FIGS. 1 and 2. At step 402, the The subscriber selects a video asset from a title listing on the display of the subscriber's equipment. At step 404, a request is transmitted to the local head-end by the subscriber whereupon, at ~~in~~ step 406, a stream session manager and a content manager receive the request. At ~~in~~ step 410, the content manager queries its files to determine if the requested video information is currently stored on the primary storage partition at the local head-end.

If the video information is locally stored on the primary storage partition at the local head-end, then the method 400 proceeds to step 412, where the content manager notifies the stream and session manager to transmit the requested video information.

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The stream and session manager controls the transmission and receiving of streamed video information on the local video stream server. ~~At~~ step 414, the stream and session manager notifies the video stream server to transmit the requested video information. ~~At~~ step 416, the video stream server transmits the video information, through the access network, to the subscriber's equipment for viewing on a display and the method ends at step 417.

AB
Correct
If, ~~in~~ response to the query at step 410 that is negatively answered, where the video information is not locally stored on the primary storage partition at the local head-end, the method proceeds to step 418 (FIG. 4B) where the stream and session manager sends the request to the content session manager. ~~At~~ step 420, the content session manager then identifies the video information stored on the remote storage location (i.e., the secondary storage partition at the remote server head-end, as depicted by the first embodiment of this invention in FIG. 1, or the secondary storage partition at each head-end, as depicted by the second embodiment of this invention in FIG. 2).

After the video information is identified ~~in step 420~~, the content session manager, at step 422, allocates the necessary bandwidth on the inter-server network. At the remote head-end, the content session manager determines the most efficient route to allocate the video asset to the requesting head-end. The content manager allocates a path for transmission based upon factors such as network bandwidth, popularity of the requested asset in view of subscriber requests, and storage capacity at the local server.

AB
Correct
Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 21, as follows:

Once the bandwidth on the access network is allocated, the content session manager notifies, in step 434, the stream session manager at the remote head-end to start streaming the requested video asset. ~~and at~~ At step 436, the remote stream session manager then signals the remote stream server to begin streaming the video. ~~At~~ step 438, the remote stream server transmits the video asset over the allocated bandwidth of the inter-server network, across a network interface switch, and through the access network to the final destination, the subscriber equipment. The method 400

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AS
ends at step 439. These alternate methods provide effective options to transmit video assets under various conditions in the interactive information distribution system.

Rewrite the paragraphs beginning on page 18, line 3 through page 19, line 4, as follows:

The method 500 starts at step 501 and proceeds to step 502 where a plurality of subscribers transmit requests for video content from each of a plurality of subscriber equipment. ~~At~~ step 504, each local video stream server at a plurality of head-ends designated to support the plurality of subscribers, receives the subscriber requests and notifies the content manager thereof. At step 506, the content manager at each local head-end collectively quantifies a subscriber asset request rate for each video asset.

AS
The service provider, ~~at~~ step 508, sets at least one threshold rate for each video asset in order to establish a frequency request level for subscriber requests of video assets. Then, at step 510, the subscriber asset request rate is compared to the threshold rate for each video asset.

The method 500 queries, at step 512, whether the asset request rate traverses the threshold rate. If the query is affirmatively answered, then, ~~at~~ step 514, the video asset is directed by the management tools to be streamed to the primary storage partitions at each of the plurality of head-ends designated to store the replicates of that video asset. The head-ends that store the replicated video asset are those based upon traversing the threshold request rate for that specific head-end. If one of the threshold rates for the entire system is traversed, then, at step 516, the video asset is stored amongst all of the plurality of head-ends in the interactive information distribution system.

Alternatively, if at the query of step 512 is negatively answered, the method 500 deems that the asset request rate does not traverse the threshold rate. At step 518, the video asset is directed by the management tools to be stored at the secondary storage partition. ~~At~~ step 520, some or all of the video assets that are replicated on the primary storage partitions may be removed, depending on the subscriber request rate at that specific head-end, and the method 500 ends at step 521.

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In the first embodiment as depicted in FIG. 1, the infrequently requested video assets are stored on the secondary storage partition 119 at the remote server head-end 110R. In the second embodiment as depicted in FIG. 2, the infrequently requested video assets are divided amongst each of the plurality of head-ends and then stored on their respective secondary storage partitions. In either the first or second embodiments, there is a separation of frequently requested video assets from infrequently requested assets. The result of this method is a reduction of storage capacity required for storing the thousands of video assets in duplication, while still providing the assets to the plurality of subscribers seamlessly without delay.

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